

7B SONG All the Rowboats 4 14))) MP3

- a Listen to the song and write the missing words. Use the clues in brackets to help you.
- b Listen to the song and check.

All the Rowboats

All the rowboats in the paintings
 They keep trying to row away
 And the captains' worried ¹ faces (**part of the body**)
 Stay contorted and staring at the waves
 They'll keep hanging in their ² _____ frames
 (**a precious metal**)
 For forever, forever and a day
 All the rowboats in the oil paintings
 They keep trying to row away, row away
 Hear them whispering ³ _____ and
⁴ _____ (**two languages**)
 Dutch, Italian, and Latin
 When no one's looking I touch a ⁵ _____
 (**a work of art made of stone**)
 Marble, cold, and soft as ⁶ _____ (**a material**)
 But the most special are the most lonely
 God, I pity the ⁷ _____ (**string instruments**)
 In **glass coffins** they keep ⁸ _____ (**what you keep**
doing when you have a cold)
 They've forgotten, forgotten how to sing, how to sing

Chorus

First there's lights out, then there's lock up
⁹ _____ serving **maximum sentences**
 (**great works of art**)
 It's their own fault for being timeless
 There's a price to pay and a consequence
 All the galleries, the ¹⁰ _____ (**places where**
you can see old objects)



Here's your ticket, welcome to the ¹¹ _____
 (**large graves built of stone**)
 They're just public mausoleums
 The **living dead** fill every room
 But the most special are the most lonely
 God, I pity the ¹² _____ (**string instruments**)
 In glass coffins they keep ¹³ _____ (**what you**
keep doing when you have a cold)
 They've forgotten, forgotten how to sing
 They will stay there in their ¹⁴ _____ frames
 (**a precious metal**)
 For forever, forever and a day
 All the rowboats in the oil paintings
 They keep trying to row away, row away

Chorus

They will stay there forever and a day
 All the rowboats in the oil paintings
 They keep trying to row away, row away
 (repeat)

- c Look at the **bold** phrases and with a partner answer the questions.

- What are the 'glass coffins'?
- What does 'First there's lights out, then there's lock up' mean?
- Why does she say the works of art are serving 'maximum sentences'?
- Who are 'the living dead'?
- How does the singer feel about the things she sees in paintings and display cases in the gallery?

GLOSSARY

contorted = twisted out of its normal shape

SONG FACTS

Russian-born American musician Regina Spektor is an internationally-known pop singer and songwriter. Regina studied classical piano and garnered a loyal live following in New York before self-releasing two albums. *All the Rowboats* was the first single released from her sixth album *What We Saw from the Cheap Seats* in 2012. However, she had penned the song about 7–8 years before and had been performing it at concerts regularly.